

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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Ballots for Peace - Bullets for Nazis

FREE ELECTION PROPOSAL

Berlin — East and West Germany should each send five representatives to a commission to discuss free all-German elections which could re-unite Germany and ensure peace in Europe, the parliament of the East German Democratic Republic has proposed.

On January 10th the proposal, which had been unanimously approved on the previous day, was handed over in Bonn to the chairman of the West German Federal Parliament.

In its resolution on free elections, the People's Chamber (East German Parliament) condemned the Schuman Plan for the pooling of West Europe's coal and steel industries as a step towards a new war. "The Schuman Plan means coal for armaments, iron and steel for cannon, tanks and shells for war" the resolution stated.

"The German people must not be allowed to take this road to remilitarisation, war, destruction and death."

The Path to Peace

"The path to peace can be taken by the Germans reaching an understanding among themselves to create a free electoral law for holding all-German elections to a National Assembly. This National Assembly would have the task of establishing a united, democratic, peace-loving and independent Germany."

The People's Chamber simultaneously passed a draft electoral law which could serve as a basis for discussion by the all-German electoral commission.

The five representatives of the German Democratic Republic on this commission will be Otto Nuschke, Dr. Lothar Bolz and Dr. Hans Loch, all Deputy Prime Ministers and chairmen of the Christian Democrats, National Democrats and Liberal Democrats respectively, Hermann Matern, Socialist Unity Party and vice-chairman of the People's Chamber, and Professor Leo Zuckermann, a lawyer and member of the Constitutional Committee of the People's Chamber.

NEW WEHRMACHT BY MARCH

Bonn — The call-up for a West German army commanded by former Nazi generals and equipped with over 2000 tanks and 1700 planes will start by March this year at the latest, West German War Minister Theodor Blank announced here on January 9th. Herr Blank, who for purposes of camouflage calls himself "Security Commissioner", stated that the new army would consist of six panzer divisions, each fitted out with 300 tanks, six motorised divisions each with 70 tanks, and an airforce with 1700 up-to-date jet fighters and bombers manned by a force of 75,000.

1,250,000 Conscripts

An American Associated Press correspondent disclosed that the actual figures will be much larger than those named by War Minister Blank. According to this report plans had been completed by the Bonn Government for the conscription of 1,250,000 young West Germans aged between 18 and 21. This force, enough to make up 100 German divisions at war strength, will be commanded by 1300 of Hitler's old generals, the Associated Press report stated.

A West German Government spokesman hurried to issue a formal denial of this report, but it was confirmed by an official of the American High Commission.

THE TRUTH ABOUT GERMANY

by John Peet

Seven years ago at this season, American, British and Russian citizens, together with men from a dozen other nations, were fighting their way across the frontiers of Germany to end the reign of aggressive and brutal nazism, which had brought death and destruction to half the world.

In May 1945 the fight was ended, and in June Stalin, Truman and Attlee signed the Potsdam agreement which stated: "German militarism and nazism will be extirpated, and the Allies will take . . . the other measures necessary to assure that Germany never again will threaten her neighbours or the peace of the world."

The signatories pledged themselves to democratise Germany, to split up excessive monopolies and trusts, to bring war criminals to judgement, and above all, to preserve German unity.

Only six and a half years later militarism and nazism are firmly back in the saddle again in one part of Germany, war criminals have been released and granted fat pensions, armaments monopolists like Krupp have regained power, and the open formation of a new Wehrmacht, commanded by Hitler's old generals and ready to threaten the peace of the world again, is just round the corner.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT GERMANY

(Cont. from p. 1)

And the other part of Germany? If one is to believe the big-business press in the English-speaking world, East Germany is a zone of terror and starvation, ruled by hundreds of thousands of ruthless police who are likely to attack the west at any moment.

Up to June 1950 I was chief correspondent in West Berlin for the Reuters, the British news agency. In this capacity I saw and experienced from the inside the way in which the truth about developments was being perverted. I saw how certain British and American circles were driving ahead with their campaign to give guns back to the Nazi murderers, and how they were distracting attention by circulating the most monstrous stories about alleged developments in East Germany, the German Democratic Republic.

Militarism Banished

I saw too, as any unbiased observer on the spot must see, that the true situation was quite different, and that in the German Democratic Republic Junker militarism had been banished for ever, that the factories had been taken away from the war criminals, and that the key positions in government and administration were held by men and women who had fought against Hitler and who now were devoting their entire energy to helping the German people, for the first time in history, along the road to real democracy.

Eighteen months ago, seeing the truth, I severed my connection with Reuters, which like all other great Anglo-American news agencies was acting as an agent of big business in the drive for war, and since then I have been living and working in the German Democratic Republic, working side by side with the men and women who are putting their backs into the great task of building a new, a better, and above a peaceful Germany.

Because events in Germany today are a key to the peace of the world, and because most readers in the English-speaking world have so little opportunity to read the truth about the German situation, I have decided to publish DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT, the first number of which you are now reading.

News of Resistance

Once a fortnight, GERMAN REPORT will bring you the real news about Germany, the news which most other papers suppress — the news on the regrowth of Nazism, militarism and imperialism in West Germany and of the people's resistance to this on the one hand, and on the other the news about the new and better Germany, about the sinking prices and rising wages and young people who work for peace and not for war in the German Democratic Republic.

Above all, GERMAN REPORT will bring you news of the powerful movement for German unity and peace which has millions of supporters in all parts of Germany, the movement for free democratic elections throughout Germany which will make it possible to form an all-German democratic government. The formation of such a government and the subsequent signing of a peace treaty and the withdrawal of all occupation troops would be a decisive step to lessen the tension in the world today and ensure peace.

In June 1950, when I left the service of Reuters, the London head office of that firm was forced to issue a public statement that my reports from Berlin had always been "objective and exact".

In GERMAN REPORT, we shall endeavour to give readers exact and objective news of the German scene today, letting facts speak for themselves.

But GERMAN REPORT should not just provide you with interesting reading. We aim to provide you with facts and arguments which will serve you as ammunition in the campaign in your country against German remilitarisation, the campaign for the conclusion of a peace treaty with a unified, democratic and peace-loving Germany.

The next few months will be of vital importance for Germany, for Europe and for world peace. GERMAN REPORT will keep you abreast of events in Germany, and show how you can help to stop World War III.

NEW ELECTORAL LAW

Complete freedom for candidates and electors in democratic and secret all-German elections is guaranteed by the draft electoral law passed by the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic. The electoral law is based in all its main provisions on the electoral law of the pre-Hitler German Republic, the only important modification being that the voting age is reduced from 21 to 18. Main stipulations of the law are:

Paragraph 1. All citizens are guaranteed freedom of political activity in preparing and carrying out the election. All democratic parties, organisations and associations have full freedom for their activities. They have the right to nominate candidates for the National Assembly, and full freedom of electoral propaganda.

2. The right of free expression of opinion in word, writing, print, picture or in other manner is guaranteed throughout Germany.

No Political Arrests

3. No-one may be arrested or persecuted because of his political standpoint, nor may his job or position be prejudiced.

6. All limitations on passenger traffic inside Germany, including Greater Berlin, will be removed at the latest 3 months before the elections.

7. Parties presenting candidates have an unlimited right to hold public meetings.

9. The members of the German National Assembly will be elected by German men and women over 18 years of age, in free, general, direct and secret elections, held in accordance with the principles of proportional representation.

Three Months Notice

14. The date of the election is to be fixed by the All-German Consultation, composed of representatives of both halves of the country. This date must be published by the authorities in East and West Germany three months in advance.

17. Each of the sixteen provinces of Germany, plus the area of Greater Berlin, constitute electoral districts. Candidatures for each electoral district must be supported by at least 500 signatures from electors.

Other paragraphs of the law deal with the polling booths, the cabins to ensure secrecy, the sealing of polling boxes, and the public counting of votes by representatives of all parties presenting candidates.

"German imperialists menace western neighbours"

Prime Minister Grotewohl

The remilitarisation of West Germany will mean that German imperialism will once again threaten Germany's western neighbours, Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, emphasised in a parliamentary statement on January 9th.

"Members of Adenauer's West German military staff are already saying 'We shall be able to handle France differently once we have got our fifteen divisions'. Once German imperialism gets into a position of power, no form of European union, however cunningly contrived, will be able to stop it taking Hitler's path, this time with the blessing of American imperialism" the Prime Minister said.

Herr Grotewohl stated that the Schuman Plan and the General Treaty being prepared with West Germany meant that the third world war had passed out of the stage of projection into the stage of active preparation.

"Only the creation of a peace-loving democratic Germany can give our western neighbours, and in particular France, final security against a new German aggression."

"It is clear that Adenauer, who wants to drive through the Schu-

man Plan, the Plevin Plan and all other war plans, has no interest in free all-German elections. Adenauer and the Americans are against elections under all circumstances. They naturally cannot say this, but this is why they are looking for a way to prevent elections, and why they have requested a United Nations commission on the subject, intending to delay elections."

"In the name of the peace-loving German people I declare that the decision of the 6th General Assembly of the U.N. on the establishment of an investigating commission is an intervention in the internal affairs of the German people, a breach of the Potsdam Agreement and of the principles and statutes of the U.N itself."

Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl emphasised that the government of the German Democratic Republic was perfectly willing for a mixed commission of Germans from east and west, under the four power control of representatives of the USSR, the USA, Great Britain and France, to investigate the conditions for holding all-German elections, and that his government was always ready to confer on this subject with West German representatives.

GOVERNMENT HELPS REBUILD 125 CHURCHES

Grants from the government of the German Democratic Republic have helped during 1951 to restore 125 churches damaged during the Second World War.

No fewer than 3000 Protestant churches in East Germany were damaged during the war, largely in the course of terrorist air-raids on civilian targets, and more than 200 of these were totally destroyed. In Brandenburg, the province most badly hit, only 235 Protestant churches out of a total of 1440 remained undamaged.

Historic Churches Saved

In 1945 and 1946 all building efforts had to be devoted to seeing that the bombed-out population had roofs over their heads, but once the most urgent work had been done, attention was also directed towards ecclesiastical buildings. In the first place steps were taken to save such churches as were of great artistic or historic interest by erecting provisional roofing, shoring-up weakened walls, and so on. In all this work the central and local authorities have given the church authorities great help in the form of credits, subsidies, permits for building material, and so forth.

Government subsidies amounting to a total of 800,000 marks have been granted during 1951 to help in the rebuilding of 125 churches, including the famous Kreuz-Kirche in Dresden, which was almost completely burned out in the terror-raid of February 13th 1945; St. Johannis, Magdeburg, which was built in 1452; the Nikolai Church, Potsdam; the Jacobi church, Stralsund, and St. Michael in Jena, the largest church in Thuringia.

Restoration in Berlin

In the democratic sector of Berlin, restoration and building work was done on 47 Protestant, 6 Catholic and 3 New Apostolic churches in 1950, and on about the same number in 1951. Labour and building materials valued at 2 million marks have been allocated for church restoration work in the democratic sector of Berlin.

Former Chancellor visits Democratic Republic

The government of the German Democratic Republic has a real desire for free all-German elections to reunite the country, veteran Catholic statesman Dr. Joseph Wirth told German and foreign correspondents at a press conference in West Berlin.

Dr Wirth, who is 72, was Chancellor of the pre-Hitler German Republic from October 1921 to November 1922, and later Minister of the Interior. During his term as Chancellor he was largely responsible for the conclusion of the historic Repalleo Treaty between Germany and Soviet Russia.

Dr Wirth came to Berlin at the end of 1951 in order to see for himself what was going on in the German Democratic Republic, and to convince himself of the sincerity of East German offers of free elections. During his stay he had talks with President Wilhelm Pieck and dozens of other political leaders of all parties, with General Chuikov, Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission, and with leading church figures.

At his press conference, held on January 11th, Dr Wirth stated: "I believe in a German National Assembly. That is why I support the proposal for discussions between the representatives of East and West". "I am not alone in my opinion in West Germany. Others who are working in the same spirit for the re-establishment of German unity are Dr Niemöller, Dr Heinemann (former West German Minister of the Interior) and Frau Helene Wessel (chairman of the Zentrum Party)". "I have made attempts to make contact with official representatives of the Bonn government, but they act as if they were afraid of meeting me."

Dr Wirth is only one of a number of leading West German politicians who have recently supported the proposed consultations between East and West. On January 12th Dr Hans Ehard, Catholic Prime Minister of Bavaria, declared "I am heterodox enough to believe that the idea of a consultation between East and West German circles is not at all bad".

Our own Baedeker

The Potsdam Agreement, signed by Attlee, Truman and Stalin, laid down that German militarism and nazism should be extirpated and the German people helped to create a democratic and peaceful life in a united country.

In direct breach of the Potsdam Agreement, the Western powers partitioned Germany. Today, in January 1952, Germany thus temporarily consists de facto of four parts:

1) The German Democratic Republic (former Soviet Zone or East Zone)

Area: 41,390 square miles. Population: 17,314,000 (1948). Capital: Berlin. President: Wilhelm Pieck. Prime Minister: Otto Grotewohl.

In the German Democratic Republic war criminals and nazi industrialists have been expropriated and their factories and estates taken over by the people, education has been democratized, all forms of militarism, fascism or racial hatred are strictly forbidden both by law and in practice, and a Five Year Plan covering both nationalised and private industry has brought sinking prices and rising wages. The government is composed of representatives of the five parties — Socialist Unity Party, Christian Democratic Party, Liberal Democratic Party, National Democratic Party and Democratic Peasant Party. All parties have declared their support for all-German free democratic elections to secure German unity.

2) The German Federal Republic (former British, American and French Zones or West Zones)

Area: 96,706 square miles. Population: 44,620,000 (1948). Capital: Bonn. President: Theodor Heuss. Chancellor: Konrad Adenauer.

In the German Federal Republic the bankers and industrialists who helped Hitler to power have kept their money and their factories. The government, with support from the occupation powers, plans to re-introduce conscription for a new German Wehrmacht in the near future, and large para-military organisations under the command of old nazi generals already exist. Progressive movements are persecuted, but new fascist parties are left undisturbed. The government is composed of representatives of the Christian Democratic, Free Democratic and German Parties. Influential members of all main parties have declared their support for all-German free democratic elections, but Dr. Adenauer, leader of the Christian Democratic Union, and Dr. Schu-

WEST GERMAN PEACE FRONT

Niemöller's sons will refuse military service

The three sons of Pastor Niemöller, West German Protestant Church leader, will refuse to serve under all circumstances in a West German army. Pastor Niemöller, who was imprisoned by Hitler because of his opposition to war, made this announcement in a letter to a West Berlin mother who had written to him saying: "My son is 18, and we are all worried about conscription. I am writing in the name of many parents and in the name of the young people who do not want to be soldiers. Please help us."

In his reply Pastor Niemöller stated: "If occasion arises all my three sons will refuse military service under all circumstances, and will be ready to take the consequences. I can only recommend the same course to your son. Most papers and means of publicity are closed to us friends of peace, but something can be done by personal contact and so on. My experience shows me that we form the great majority of the West German people, and at the right moment this will make itself felt."

Tank threat to West German Editor

American officers had threatened to flatten his office with a tank if he continued to report on the bad conduct of members of the American occupation forces, stated the editor

macher, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, have fiercely opposed the proposal.

3) The Democratic Sector of Berlin (former Soviet sector) has the same currency and basically the same laws and regulations as the surrounding German Democratic Republic. The administration of the Democratic Sector is headed by Lord Mayor Friedrich Ebert. The population is approximately one million.

4) West Berlin (British, American and French sectors) has the same currency and in the main the same laws as the German Federal Republic. Since the formation of the separatist West Berlin administration in 1948 this part of the city has suffered from a chronic economic crisis, with unemployment hovering steadily around 300,000 out of a population of some two million. Peace supporters are persecuted and militarism fostered as in West Germany. The West Berlin administration is headed by Ernst Reuter.

of the independent newspaper "Fraenkische Tag", published in Bamberg, American Zone.

Editor Hans Brey told his readers of the threat in a leading article in which he recalled numerous beatings and thefts committed by occupation soldiers.

Bamberg Town council on January 3rd passed a resolution calling for all American troops in Bamberg to be confined to barracks.

The town of Bamberg has been very active in the peace movement in West Germany. During 1951 the Mayor refused to hand over the plans of the town bridges, which the U.S. Forces wished to prepare for demolitions, and when work on demolition chambers was finally begun, Bamberg workers threw the tools into the river.

Ex-minister rejects new army

Germany must not be allowed to become a danger to Europe once again through rearmament, stated Dr Gustav W. Heinemann, leading West German Christian Democrat, and former Minister of the Interior in an editorial in the Aachener Nachrichten.

"Preparations have already been made to receive the first recruits in the barracks" he stated. "Urgent negotiations are in progress on the General Treaty and the supplementary treaties. Now, as earlier, the majority of the people are opposed to rearmament. The inattention to this fact can be catastrophic to our democracy, which is weak enough in any case."

The German figure is missing on the international chess board. It must not be allowed to return in that form in which it has brought ruin both to us and to other peoples in the past. Germany cannot and must not become a danger to Europe."

Anti-military propaganda banned

Propaganda against remilitarisation is banned today in parts of West Germany. On December 14th 1951 the Mayor of Geesthacht, British Zone, wrote to the Working Committee for All-German Understanding in the town, stating:

"It has been noted that you will be holding a meeting today at 8 p.m. I would draw your attention to the fact that propaganda and discussion against remilitarisation and for a peace treaty are prohibited. The police will be obliged to disperse the meeting if this ruling is broken."

American Soldiers Choose Peace

Three American soldiers, disgusted by the rearmament of West Germany and the war propaganda of their own officers, were granted asylum in December 1951 by the government of the German Democratic Republic.

One of the soldiers, applying for the right to stay in East Germany, wrote:

"I, Sidney R. Sparks, RA 14335116, ... ask the government of this Republic for protection and want to live in this Republic ...

I did not want to take any part of fighting the people of the USSR because they were allies to the U.S. during the war ... I can't see any sense in fighting for something you don't know what you are fighting for.

In Germany now in the western sector there are men of German nationality being formed into a rapid growing army who have uniforms of black and also have weapons. The former Nazi generals are at the head of this army. I believe this is the war policy of the U.S.A. but I am against this. I am a young man and I want to live as a man should do. Many like me are being killed in Korea and have taught me a good lesson ... All I want is a place to work and a place to live."

Similar letters were written by his two friends, Charles Scattie, RA 16,286,368, and Ray D. Shultz, RA 12,351,230.

DO YOU KNOW

*Who controls West German industry?
Why the western allies fostered the rebirth of German militarism?*

How American financiers blocked demilitarisation?

What peace-loving Germans are doing about the war danger?

Answers to these and dozens of other questions are given in 200 pages of facts and figures in the "White Book on the American and British Policy of Intervention in West Germany and the Revival of German Imperialism". The White Book has been published at 1 Mark in English, French, Russian and German by the National Front of Democratic Germany.

Orders should be addressed care of DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT.

Heil! Heil! the gang's all here

Nazis and militarists are taking over again in West Germany with the active and passive help of the western occupation authorities. Here is a small selection of recent reports from the renazification and remilitarisation front:

Appointments

Dr. Sonnenburg, liaison officer during the second world war between Ribbentrop's Foreign Office and the Reich Security Office of the SS which controlled the concentration camps: recently appointed Press Officer of the West German Marshall Plan Ministry.

Dr Luitpold Wertz, formerly employed in the internal section of the Nazi Foreign Office: in 1951 appointed section chief in the office of the West German President.

Ex-General Reinefarth, formerly SS, last Nazi garrison commander in Kuestrin: recently named mayor of Bad Westerland (British Zone).

Old Soldiers

Former SS General Kurt Meyer, recently returned to Germany from Canada to serve out the remainder of his life term for war crimes in the prison at Werl in the British Zone, was allowed a ten day furlong outside the prison at the end of 1951 on his "word of honour". Interviewed during his holiday Meyer said "Marshal Manstein and Marshal Kesselring and myself study English hard every day. We believe in a European army and we are preparing ourselves to serve in it."

Justice

Karl Schleicher of Hamburg "organized" a pair of trousers from a German army store when serving as a corporal with the Nazi army on the eastern front in 1944. The war ended, the Nazis capitulated, militarism was theoretically destroyed, and then suddenly in November 1951 Herr Schleicher received a notice from the British Zone provincial court announcing that he had been sentenced to 5 months imprisonment for "theft from army stores". The notice stated "the sentence has been imposed not so much because of the value of the trousers stolen as because of the lack of military discipline shown by this action". The man who imposed the sentence was Judge Matthiessen, who won notoriety in June 1948 for acquitting Nazi Commodore Rudolf Petersen, who shot members

of his crew after the Nazi forces had unconditionally surrendered in 1945.

Herr Riebel was a high SS officer in the West Germans town of Bensheim. When allied troops occupied the town in 1945 he was arrested and interned for a period.

Released from interment camp, Herr Riebel sued the town authorities of Bensheim for 10,000 marks damages, claiming that his house was "looted in 1945 owing to insufficient police protection".

He won his case.

Reunions

An association of former members of the "Adolf Hitler" formation of SS Elite Guards has been set up in West Berlin with the permission of Ernst Reuter, Social Democratic Mayor. At their first meeting former SS officer Bechel, who has served seven terms of imprisonment for assault, stated in a speech:

"The period of defeat and democracy is nearly ended. After 1945 many of us adopted a mistaken attitude of opposition to the government and the Americans. Today we can see that we are needed once more. We shall soon be back in uniform again occupying our proper place as controllers of the state. I order you to give your absolute support to the policy of rearmament, since this is the guarantee of a new era, our new era."

Pensions

Hans Schroeder, SS General and Nazi police chief of Luebeck, receives a monthly pension of 830 marks from the West German government, an official spokesman told the provincial parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, British Zone. The pension had been granted because the denazification court had classed this SS officer as "not active in the Nazi movement".

Frau Stellbrinck, a widow also living in Luebeck, receives a pension of 140 marks. Her husband, a Protestant clergyman, was murdered in 1943 by SS men under the command of Hans Schroeder (see previous paragraph).

The victims

The bodies of 208 foreign forced labourers, murdered by the Gestapo during the war, have been found in a mass grave in Hildesheim, British Zone. Examination showed that the victims, including 17 women, had been stripped and manacled before being shot.

Production is the pay-off

by Jan Koplowitz

The men of the Ott shift, going off, have gathered under the blackboard at one end of the rolling mill. The blackboard is covered with numbers, crosses and letters which are a mystery to the layman but which mean much to the steelworkers. They know what these figures mean, and show what they have managed to do.

The Ott shift hold the record. They won it four weeks ago when they beat the Baumann shift by rolling 186 blocks of steel in eight hours. For two years the Baumann shift had kept ahead of all the others, and they are due to take over now, at 10 p. m.

The men of the Baumann shift have only one topic of conversation on their way to work — the eleventh price cut. Hugo Peterhansel remembers about the new low prices for hard liquor as he passes the "Max" pub just down the road from the foundry, and turns in for a quick one. Most of the shift are there before him, round a table, but they are chatting quietly, and not a single one has a glass in front of him.

Work first — Celebrate Later

Brigade leader Fischer is there too, and he beckons Hugo to him. "First we pay off in production for this grand present, then we celebrate" he says. "Tonight we are going to bust the Ott shift's record, and no one is going to touch a glass first. The only way we can do it by organising every minute right. Remember the Ott shift worked 186 blocks — that means practically 500 tons of raw steel in eight hours."

"That is quite a tall order" says Heidenreich, who used to be a ship's steward. "We had better get going so we have everything ready before we start working. The shift starts in half an hour."

In the long rolling-hall, lit as much by the glowing blocks of hot steel as by the electric lamps, the men of Baumann's shift stand and watch their predecessors putting the last few touches to their work. They want to know how the mill is running, they want to get ready for the rhythm of the machine.

In December 1951, in good time for Christmas, prices for off-the-ration goods in the German Democratic Republic were slashed for the eleventh time in three years as a result of continually increasing production. Most prices were cut about 25% and the prices for spirits were halved. This report, by a man who fought the nazis underground in Germany and Austria, and who spent the war as a refugee in England, tells how the news was received in the "Max" foundry in Thuringia, which formerly belonged to the war criminal Flick, but which has been taken over by the people and now produces record quantities of steel for peace.

Kurt Baumann himself head of the shift and a veteran steel worker, is up on the control platform. Someone fetches the representatives of the foundry union committee, and notifies the members of the "Competition Commission" that they are going to attack Ott's record.

As the sirens sound for change of shift, Baumann's men take over. There is not a second to lose. The crane hoists the first block out of the furnace and starts it on its journey through the turning rollers. Backwards, and forwards through the gigantic mangle goes the steel block, the faster the better. Saving seconds, saving ounces and saving pennies make it possible to break records.

Midnight has passed. An electric motor goes out of commission, but the electrician changes it in seven minutes. "Impossible" the old-style experts would have said.

Speed but no Exploitation

Faces begin to light up. Every man who has to pass the blackboard snatches a look, smiles and nods in approval. More than 60 blocks completed already, and less than a third of the time has passed.

But despite all the energy, all the noise, all the speed, this is no blood-sucking, no exploitation of the strength of the workers. Think,

calculate, see how you can work better with less physical exertion, plan how to simplify the method of working — that is what is necessary.

The hours are passing, the blackboard shows that things are going well. There is no let-up, but the regular swing of the work still gives a chance to snatch a little conversation — to ask about the son who has gone to study at the Worker' and Peasants' Faculty of the university, to send kind regards to someone's sick mother, to exchange notes about allotments. But tonight the over-ruling subject of conversation is the new price cut.

Girders for Berlin

Meantime the glowing blocks of steel are racing over the rollers. It is 5.30 a. m., thirty minutes to go, and the blackboard shows a total of 183 blocks rolled. I ask Kurt Baumann what will happen to the extra production. He points to a banner on the wall which proudly announces that the rolling mill had passed its planned production for 1951 one month ahead of deadline. "What we are turning out now might become girders for a new and better Berlin" he adds cautiously.

Record Smashed

Workers from the morning shift begin to straggle in. They look much sleepier and more tired than the Baumann shift who have been hard at it for eight hours, but they wake with a start as they see the figures on the blackboard. Kurt Baumann can no longer keep up his pose of calmness, and begins to count aloud "191 — 192 — 3 — 4" and then the siren cuts off his words.

One hundred and ninetyfour blocks — 127 % of the normal production. Something that has never been done before. Girders for a new, more beautiful and better Berlin.

The Government slashed the prices; the workers of "Max" have paid off in production.

(Condensed from
"Taegliche Rundschau", Berlin)

East German courts crack down on race hate

In cases involving racial hatred the courts of the East German Democratic Republic must pay no heed to pleas of mitigating circumstances, the Supreme Court of the Republic ruled early this month.

The ruling was made in the case of 27 year old Ernst Hoerer who had been sentenced to one years imprisonment by the Erfurt Provincial Court on charges of spreading anti-Semitic rumours. The state prosecutor appealed against the lightness of the sentence and the Supreme Court returned the case for retrial, laying down that the sentence of two years imprisonment demanded by the prosecution must be regarded as a minimum, in view of the frightful results of nazi anti-Semitism, which had led to the slaughter of millions of innocent people.

Freedom to read

More than 200 technical and scientific periodicals from Britain are available to Berliners in the reading rooms of the Public Scientific Library in the Democratic Sector of Berlin. Together with about the same number of periodicals from the United States, 250 periodicals from the Soviet Union, 100 from the People's Democracies and 550 from other countries, they are freely available to scientists, engineers, workers and students from all sectors of the city.

Save time — live better

More than 200,000 proposals on how to work better and economise in labour and raw materials were made during the past year by workers in the German Democratic Republic. 72,000 of these proposals were found to be useful outside the factories or offices where they originated. The proposals, all of which were made on the initiative of the workers themselves, ranged from useful minor economy tips which saved a few pfennigs or a few seconds, to important inventions saving thousands of tons of steel and millions of marks. Premiums proportional to the savings made are awarded to those who make useful suggestions.

No more rubble in Thuringia

All war-rubble will be cleared away in Thuringia, German Democratic Republic, in the first six months of 1952. At the end of the war bombs and ground fighting littered the towns and villages of Thuringia with 2.5 million cubic metres of rubble. Up to the end of 1951 over 2 million cubic metres had been cleared away.

All the children in the street where I live in the eastern suburbs of Berlin were hard at work when I went home a few evenings ago, sorting out undamaged bricks from the bombed-out block of flats on the corner. They were not "juvenile forced labourers" or anything like that, but just the kids of the street, who had got together in order to clean up the street, imitating the adults who in East Berlin are working voluntary shifts to help rebuild the German capital.

Together with several other grown-ups, I offered to help them, but their leader, a pig-tailed girl of 12, sent us away, telling us proudly that this was their ruin and that we should go and find some more difficult work to do.

In West Berlin, children often use the ruins as "battle-fields", copying what they see done every day by the British, French and American soldiers stationed there, and by the black-uniformed German mercenaries. The people of Berlin have grim reminders on every hand of why they should hate war, and that is why an increasing number in both halves of the city are working to rebuild their city as the capital of a united Germany in which no soldiers of any nation shall be stationed to set a bad example to the children.

The London weekly "New Statesman & Nation" has often done useful work for German democracy in the past, particularly by exposing the process of renazification and remilitarisation in West Germany. This makes it all the more regrettable that this paper has recently joined the big business press in printing the most transparent lies about Germany, and has failed to print corrections.

Here is one example. On December 8th 1951 the New Statesman, in a book review by T. R. Fyvel, stated flatly "Communist newspapers sell freely in Western Berlin. . . . In East Berlin the mere carrying of a German Social-Democrat paper can bring arrest."

Now the fact of the matter is that not only Communist newspapers, but anything printed in East Germany or East Berlin is strictly prohibited in the western sectors of the city. Anything — gardening magazines, the works of Shakespeare, or Christian Democratic newspapers — falls under the ban, and many people have

been sent to prison for the mere possession of such "dangerous publications" let alone distributing or selling them.

News-stands in East Berlin do not sell West Berlin papers, but I ride frequently on the trams and subway trains of East Berlin, and there is almost always one person in the carriage reading a West Berlin paper quite openly. It is unlikely that they would do this if there were any great danger of arrest.

I wrote to the Editor of the New Statesman, pointing out the inexactitude of the statement, and offering to pay two guineas to any charity named if Mr Fyvel, author of the article, could name one single newspaper shop in the British, American or French sectors of Berlin where Communist, Christian Democratic, Liberal Democratic or non-party papers from East Germany were freely sold over the counter to all comers. I am still waiting for the New Statesman to publish the letter, or for Mr Fyvel to supply me with such an address.

That is one small, almost insignificant example of the lying reports about Germany which appear day in and day out in the millionaire press of the western world. Sometimes the stories about East Germany which appear in the British and American press may have a grain of truth in them, but more often than not they are simply fiction.

West German papers for instance reported late in December that Christmas celebrations had been banned in East Germany, although their Berlin correspondents, by taking a tram ride into East Berlin, could have seen with their own eyes that this was nonsense. I hope that readers of GERMAN REPORT, when they see horror stories about conditions in East Germany, will, firstly, not believe them, and secondly send me the cuttings. In future numbers of GERMAN REPORT we shall print examples of such horror stories and answer them with the real facts.

In addition I should be glad to hear from any reader who has a query about conditions in Germany today, or who has suggestions as to how we can make GERMAN REPORT a more useful weapon in the fight for peace. Send us the names and addresses of friends who would be interested in the paper, and we shall be delighted to give them a trial subscription.

THE EDITOR

100000 Germans work with picks and shovels to rebuild war shattered city

In one of the biggest voluntary work programmes ever attempted 100,000 Germans have been doing spare-time work since the beginning of 1952 helping to rebuild Berlin.

Every day thousands of men and women, after their days work, grab picks and shovels and take the tram to the area round the Stalin Allee, East Berlin's main traffic artery, and scene of the worst air-raid devastation. Aim of the clearance work is both to get rid of the rubble and to salvage good bricks, girders and scrap iron which can be used for the high-speed rebuilding which is accompanying the clearance work. Measure of the importance of the salvage can be seen from the fact that in one day alone voluntary workers cleaned and stacked 700,000 bricks, enough to build 30 flats.

This great reconstruction plan, which lies outside the framework of the Five Year Plan of the German Democratic Republic, is being financed by a loan and lottery, to which Germans in all parts of the country have been invited to contribute three percent of their wages. Loan holders will be entitled to take part in a lottery at the end of 1952 for the right to move in to 1000 of the many

thousands of new workers' dwelling which will have been built by that date. Money paid in will be refunded, plus interest, between 1956 and 1958.

Volunteer workers who put in a total of 100 three-hour shifts on rubble clearance and rebuilding during the year will also have a chance to ballot for 1000 further new homes. Voluntary workers outside Berlin, who help the scheme by their work and financial contributions, will get money prizes instead of new flats if they win in the lotteries.

... and West Berlin

Here, without comment, is what the British licenced West Berlin "Telegraf" had to say about West Berlin building plans on January 4th.

"Great building plans for 1952"

Dr Mahler, Building Senator, has announced that there will be much construction of administrative buildings during 1952, particularly the rebuilding of the Berliner Bank, and the great extension to the Berlin Zentralbank. In addition there will be a lot of hotel building, and new buildings for the Free University, an American Memorial Library and an American House."

Culture for the carnival

In Bremen (American Zone), the following lyric received first prize in a competition for songs for the 1952 carnival season. The text is given in the original mixture of German and more-or-less English.

Sie sagt zu ihm: "O give me kiss my Jonny."

Er sagt: "Okay! I sleep by you tonight."

Dann fragt sie ihn: "Ja haste denn auch money?"

Und er sagt: "Yes!" und alles is alright.

New Goethe drawings discovered

Hitherto unknown sketches by Goethe, who was an accomplished draughtsman as well as Germany's greatest poet, have been discovered in Thuringia, German Democratic Republic. They were found in the library of the castle which formerly belonged to Count Henkel-Donnersmarck near Rudolstadt.

Working for 1955

Three workers in a Magdeburg engineering factory, German Democratic Republic, have increased their production so much by the use of high-speed lathe techniques that they are now working on jobs which

they would have done in 1955 at the old speed. The three men, Apel, Grabe and Misbach were awarded the National Prize in 1951 for the work they had done in popularising Soviet high-speed turning methods. They work in the "Ernst Thaelmann" Engineering Factory, formerly a subsidiary of the armaments firm of Krupp, now nationalized and working full-time on peace production.

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HUMOR:

Ready-Made Phonies

by Guenter Kunert

In order to save the West German war-mongers the trouble of thinking up silly stories about the Five Year Plan of the German Democratic Republic for themselves, here are some ready-made stories:

Story No. 1

"In the course of the Five Year Plan wages will be raised and prices lowered so that the workers can buy more. If the workers can buy more, then more will have to be produced. If more is produced, then the price will sink still further. This vicious spiral of falling prices and rising wages shows the real inhumanity of the Five Year Plan, which does not give workers the chance to stay at home without working. In West Germany on the other hand, workers are able to rest for months at a time, and to conform to a strict diet."

Story No. 2

"The complete idiocy of the actions of the government of the German Democratic Republic is seen once again in the decision to spend thousands of millions of marks on building houses, clubs, hospitals and theatres. They thus throw their money away for completely useless things instead of building barracks where the young people can be trained to be real he-men. In these new clubs they will simply be exposed to the influence of weak-kneed intellectuals like Heine and Gorki. The hospitals and the comfortable flats will only contribute to this softening process. The German Democratic Republic is inevitably headed for ruin since the fine old Prussian virtues of military manliness are neglected there."

(Condensed from "Frischer Wind", Berlin satirical weekly)

Humourists have a hard life in democratic Germany, since the so-called serious journalists in West Germany do the job so much better. On December 8th there was a new sweeping price cut in the German Democratic Republic. The "Neue Zeitung", official organ of the American occupation authorities produced this comment: "The Soviet-German authorities have been forced to reduce prices once again because of the sales-crisis in their allegedly so-well-planned economy. In order to make the best of a bad case they have had to represent this price-reduction as a great success, and as a step to the improvement of the standard of living."